

Michigan Department of Human Services

Foster Care Overview



STEVE YAGER
CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIRECTOR

Agenda

- Foster Care Program Overview
- Performance Based System
- Modified Settlement Agreement

Child Welfare Vision and Mission

Vision: DHS will lead Michigan in supporting our children, youth and families to reach their full potential.

Mission: Child welfare professionals will demonstrate an unwavering commitment to engage and partner with families we serve to ensure safety, permanency and well-being through a trauma-informed approach.

- *Child Welfare Guiding Principles*
- *MiTEAM Case Practice Model*

Children in Foster Care

- Result of CPS investigation/substantiation
AND
court order to remove child from the parental home.
- Court places with DHS for care, supervision, and out-of-home placement.
- DHS provides direct case management or refers to private agencies for case management.

Foster Care Program Description

- Provides placement and supervision of children who have been removed from their home due to abuse or neglect.
- Is a short-term solution to an emergency situation and permanency planning continues throughout the child's placement in care.
- Goal is to ensure the safety, permanence and well being of children through reunification with the birth family, permanent placement with a suitable relative, or a permanent adoptive home.

DHS and Private Agencies...

- Work with parents to rectify conditions that led to the child's removal.
 - Provision of services
(substance abuse programming, parenting education, mental health treatment, etc.)
 - Facilitate frequent parent-child visits
- Supervise child in out-of-home placement to ensure well-being & provision of necessary services.

DHS and Private Agencies...

- Ensure compliance with:
 - Federal and state laws and rules;
 - Modified Settlement Agreement;
 - State policies
- Monitor parents' progress and compliance with services on a regular basis.
- Report to the court every 3 months as to parents' progress.
- Make recommendations regarding reunification, termination of parental rights, or alternate permanency plans.

Children in Foster Care Statistics

- Michigan DHS is responsible for supervision of 13,141 children as of January 31, 2015.
 - 36% are placed in foster homes
 - 30% are placed with relatives
 - 19% are being supervised in their own homes
- The number of children under DHS supervision has been declining from a peak of 19,214 in 2003.

Methods of Permanency

- Reunification/return home
- Adoption
- Guardianship
- Permanent placement w/ relative
- Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA)
 - Permanent Arrangement w/ Foster Parent
 - OR
 - Independent Living---Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care

Role of DHS

- Recognized by federal government as single state agency (Title IV-E Agency).
- Responsible for oversight and administration of child welfare programs, policies.
- Responsible for meeting statewide child welfare goals set by federal government and federal court.
- Responsible for oversight and outcomes for all cases referred to and managed by private agency providers.

Child Welfare Funding

- Federal Title IV-E
- Federal Title IV-B
- Federal Title IV-A
- Federal Title XX
- Federal Child Abuse and Neglect Grant (CAPTA)
- Federal Chafee Foster Care Independence
- Children's Justice Act
- State General Funds
- County Funds

DHS Collaboration: Designing Performance-Based System

Child Welfare Partnership Council

- Private Agencies
- Private Agency Organizations
- Native American Tribes
- County Administrators
- County Commissioners
- Court Administrators
- Department of Education
- Department of Community Health
- Department of Human Services

Reforming Child Welfare

PRINCIPLES

- Maintain public-private collaboration and partnership.
- Conduct all work with transparency.
- Recognize shared responsibility:
 - DHS, private agencies, counties, courts, community
- Prioritize outcomes, not funding.
- Establish shared, transparent measurement and reporting of success and areas needing improvement.

Reforming Child Welfare

OUTCOMES

- Develop a model for a performance-based system for both public and private agencies:
 - Statewide set of goals for outcomes and metrics
 - Statewide expectation for use of MiTEAM practice model
 - Statewide expectation for use of a community-based continuous quality improvement process
- Adopt system of comprehensive assessment and services for children and families.

Reforming Child Welfare

FINANCING

- Create a simplified funding model for child welfare.
- Remove financial barriers for placement and treatment decisions.
- Re-establish cost sharing with state and counties.
- Create process to set private provider rates with periodic reviews.
 - Case Rate and Per Diem Rate
- Create process to review state funding allocations for equity to public providers.
- Allow state to become first payer for child welfare.
 - Cap on County Child Care Fund
- Incentivize positive outcomes for children and families.

FY 15 Statewide Timeline: Development Phase

- Procure contracted experts:
 - Project manager
 - Actuary
 - Independent third-party evaluator
- Plan validation of the defined set of outcomes and indicators.
- Plan to implement use of measurable performance outcomes and indicators statewide.

FY 15 Statewide Timeline: Development Phase

- Plan for the transparent publication of statewide outcomes and indicators.
- Evaluate the state, local and federal funding models to be used in Kent, and variances necessary for the model to be applicable in other areas of the state.
- Identify statutory and appropriation options to braid state, local and federal funds into cohesive funding source.

FY 15 Kent County Timeline: Development Phase

- Begin development and implementation of expanded continuous quality improvement.
- Develop a performance-based contract to be used in Kent County.
- Continue pilot work to develop a case rate in Kent County.
- Complete a full cost analysis of the model in partnership with the actuarial rate setting process.
- Finalize the actuarial developed case rate.

FY 16 Timeline: Initial Implementation Phase

- Implement pilot in Kent County.
- Continue to evaluate funding models in Kent County, and variances necessary for use in other areas of the state.
- Validate reports on performance outcomes for private and public agencies statewide and provide transparent access.
- Conduct an analysis of the pilot experience in Kent County to inform further planning for further expansion in other areas of the state.

Modified Settlement Agreement

- Last Monitor Report on Performance (MSA 5) and Status Hearing: September 29, 2014
- MSA 6 Period ended: June 30, 2014
 - MSA 6 Status Hearing: April 13, 2015
- MSA 7 Period: July 1, 2014- December 31, 2014
- MSA 8 Period: January 1, 2015 – June 30, 2015

Federal Court Update

- Evidence of Sustained Progress
 - Adoptions; Staff Qualifications and Training; Caseloads; Federal Permanency Outcomes
- Challenges/Areas of Focus
 - Timely Commencement of Investigation; Timely Medicals/Dentals; Relative Placements – Assessment, Licensure, Waivers, Support ; Safety Outcomes; Detention – DHS opposes when no charge on youth; Overuse of Shelters for Children

Accomplishments

- Adoptions
- Staff Training
- Expanded Services for Older Youth Exiting Care
- Enhanced MiTEAM
- Centralized Intake
- MiSACWIS
- DCQI

Expanded Services for Youth

- Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care (YAVFC)
 - Extension of Foster Care Support Services to Age 21
 - Participants Must Be Employed or Enrolled in an Educational Program
- Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP)
 - Similar to Adoption Subsidy
 - Financial Support to Ensure Permanency Via Guardianship
 - Can Continue Through Age 21 if in School, Job Training, or Employed
- Fostering Futures
 - Partnership Between Michigan Education Trust and DHS
 - College Scholarships for Youth Formerly in Foster Care

MiSACWIS

- Michigan Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System
 - Implemented April 2014
- New Technical Process: Agile Method
 - Team Approach
 - 3-week Development and Release Cycle
- Strike Teams in the Field

Division of Continuous Quality Improvement

- Quality Services Review (QSR)
 - Assesses County Child Welfare System
 - Relies on Interviews, Focus Groups, and Stakeholder Feedback
 - Identifies Strengths and Areas of Improvement
- QSR Implemented in 8 counties in FY14 and full calendar in FY 15

Areas of Continued Focus

- Safety
- Unlicensed Relative Placements
- Social Work Contacts
- Placements in Shelter, Jail, Detention

Resource Information

- Performance-Based Task Force Report

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dhs/Sec503_Pa59of2013_448916_7.pdf?20150302160335

- Federal Court Reports

http://www.michigan.gov/dhs/0,4562,7-124-5459_7701_51390---,00.html

- DHS Policy and Procedures Manuals

<http://www.mfia.state.mi.us/olmweb/ex/html/>

Questions?

Thank you!